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# The Role of a Selective Research University in Promoting College Access and Success of Students From Traditionally Underrepresented Groups

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Symposium presented at the College Board's National Forum, New York, NY.

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# The Role of a Selective Research University in Promoting College Access and Success of Students From Traditionally Underrepresented Groups

## **Disciplines**

Education | Education Economics | Higher Education

## **Comments**

Symposium presented at the College Board's National Forum, New York, NY.



# The Role of a Selective Research University In Promoting College Access and Success Of Students from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups

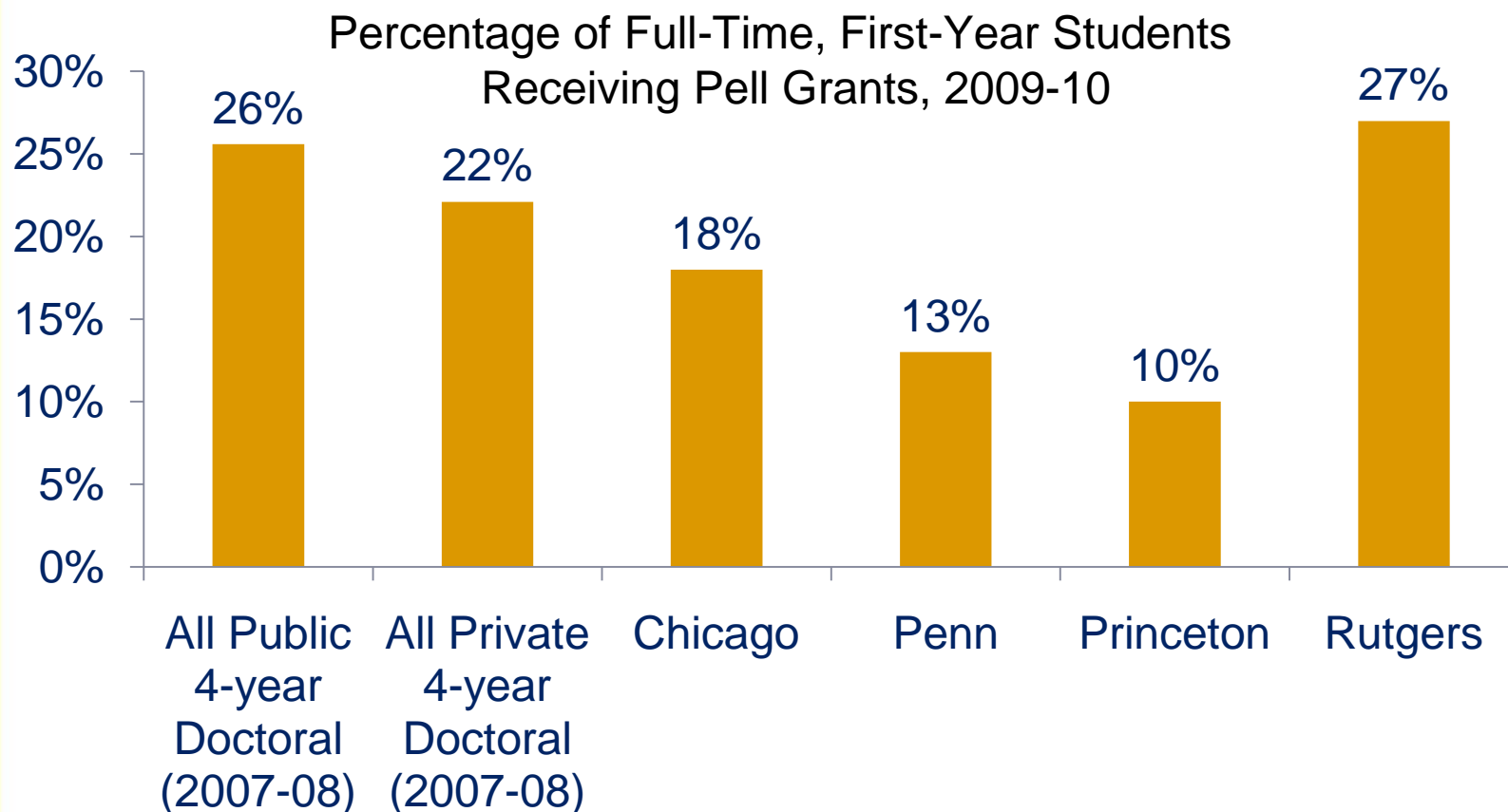
**College Board's 2011 National Forum**  
**October 27, 2011**  
**New York, NY**



## Presenters

- **Laura Perna, University of Pennsylvania**
- **Aramis Gutierrez, Rutgers University**
- **Jason Klugman, Princeton University**
- **Kim Ransom, University of Chicago**
- **Janice Park, University of Pennsylvania**
- **Sean Vereen, University of Pennsylvania**

# The Problem: Selective Research Universities Enroll Relatively Few Low-Income Students

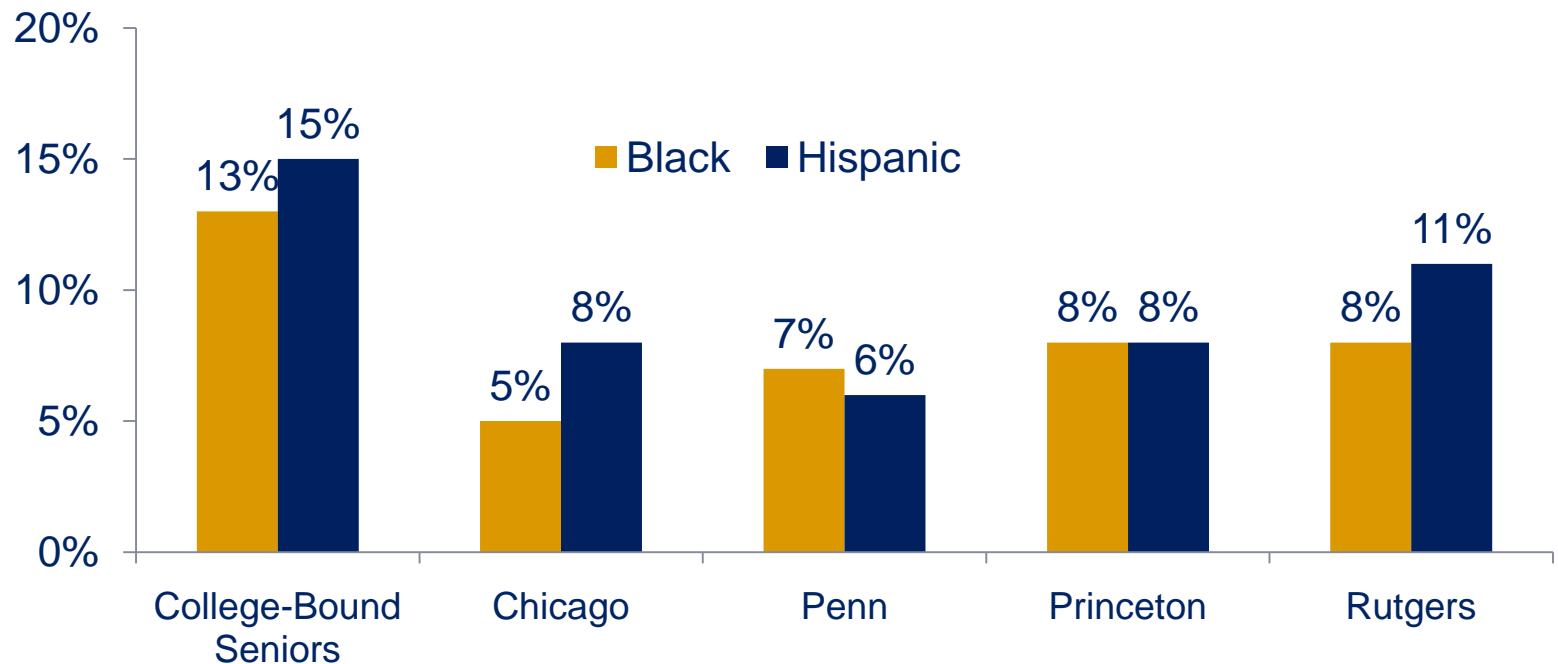


Sources: National Center for Education Statistics (2010), *Digest of Education Statistics*; U.S. Department of Education, College Navigator, <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>



## The Problem: Selective Research Universities Enroll Relatively Few African Americans and Hispanics

Representation of Blacks and Hispanics Among Undergraduates Enrolled at Selected Universities, 2010



Sources: College Entrance Examination Board, *SAT Trends: Background on SAT Takers in Class of 2010*; U.S. Department of Education, College Navigator, <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>



# Is It Possible for Selective Research Universities To Increase the Diversity of their Students?

## *Chronicle of Higher Education:*

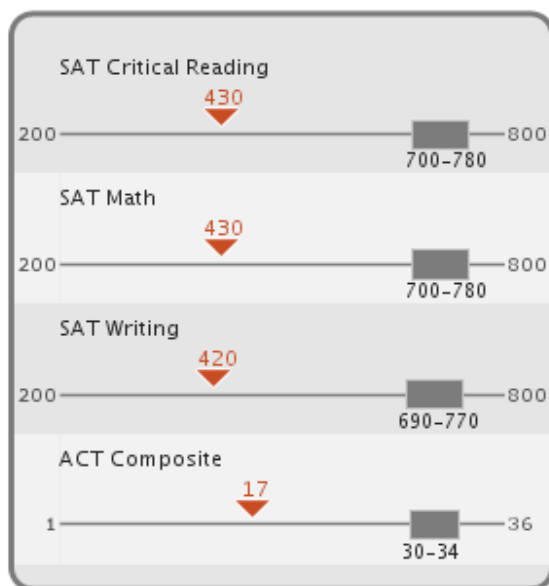
- “The economic divide on campuses is a national tragedy,” Anthony Marx (9/10/11)
- “Our economically polarized college system: Separate and unequal,” Anthony Carnevale and Jeff Strohl (9/10/11)
- “Cut-throat admissions and rising inequality: A vicious duo,” John Quiggin (9/16/11)
- “Syracuse’s slide: Chancellor focuses on ‘public good’ as ranking declines” (10/7/11)



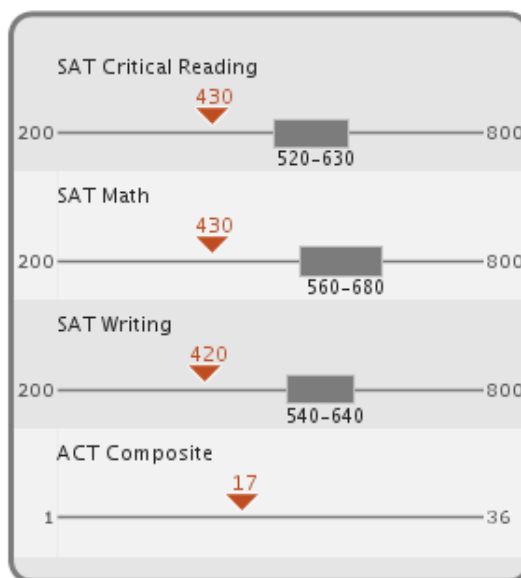
# Challenge: Average SAT and ACT Scores For African Americans are Below The Average of Selective Research Universities

Average SAT Score for Blacks and Average SAT and ACT Scores of Entering Students at Selected Universities

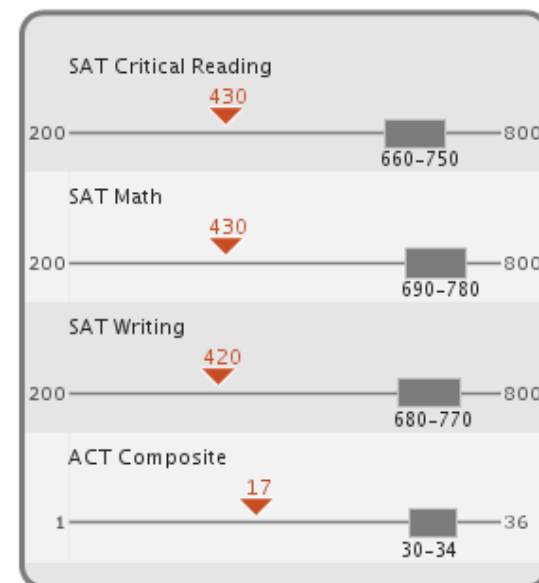
Average Black Student vs.  
University of Chicago



Average Black Student vs.  
Rutgers University



Average Black Student vs.  
University of Pennsylvania

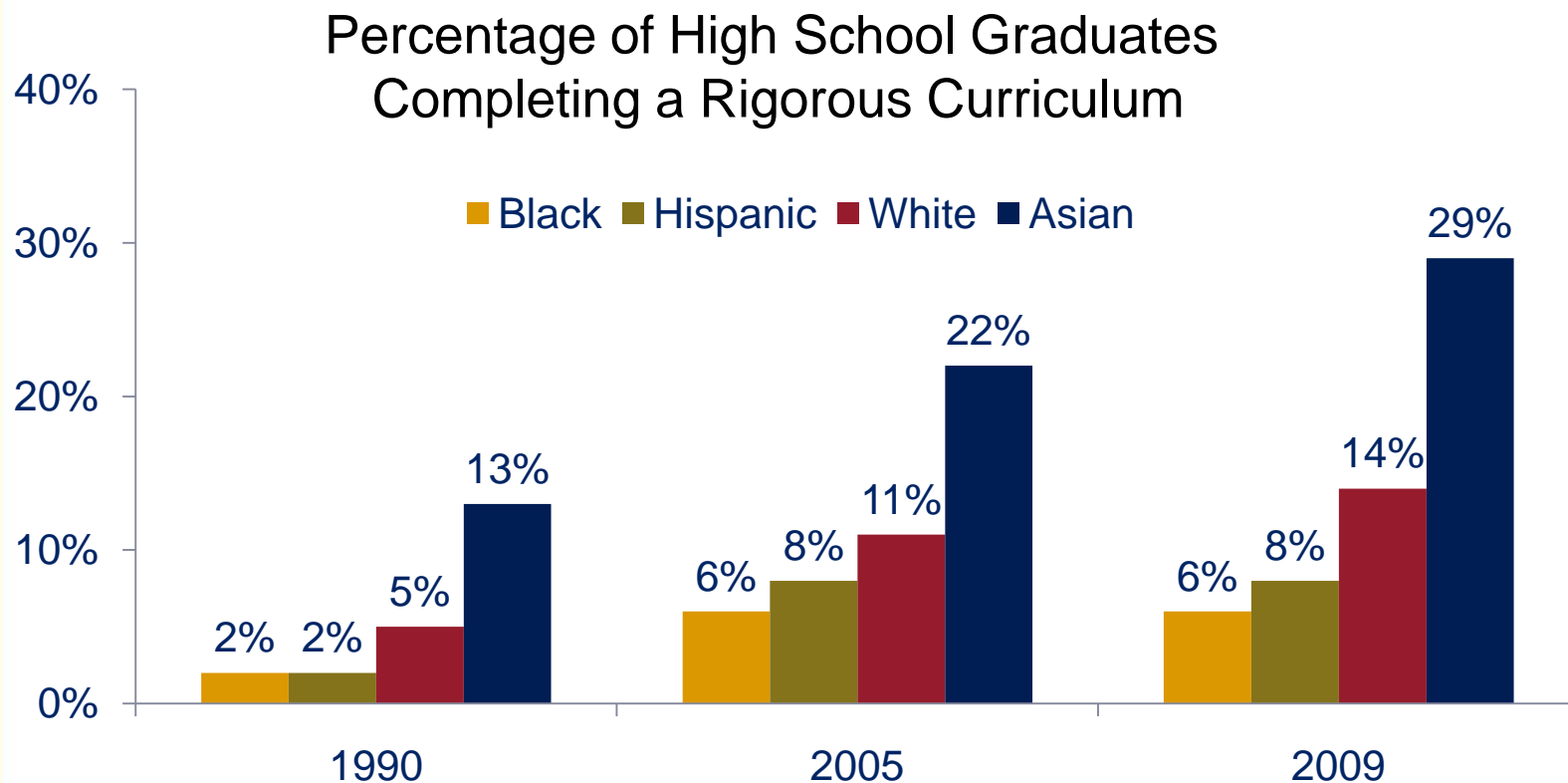


Source: College Board, College Search – Academic Tracker. <http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/academictracker/>





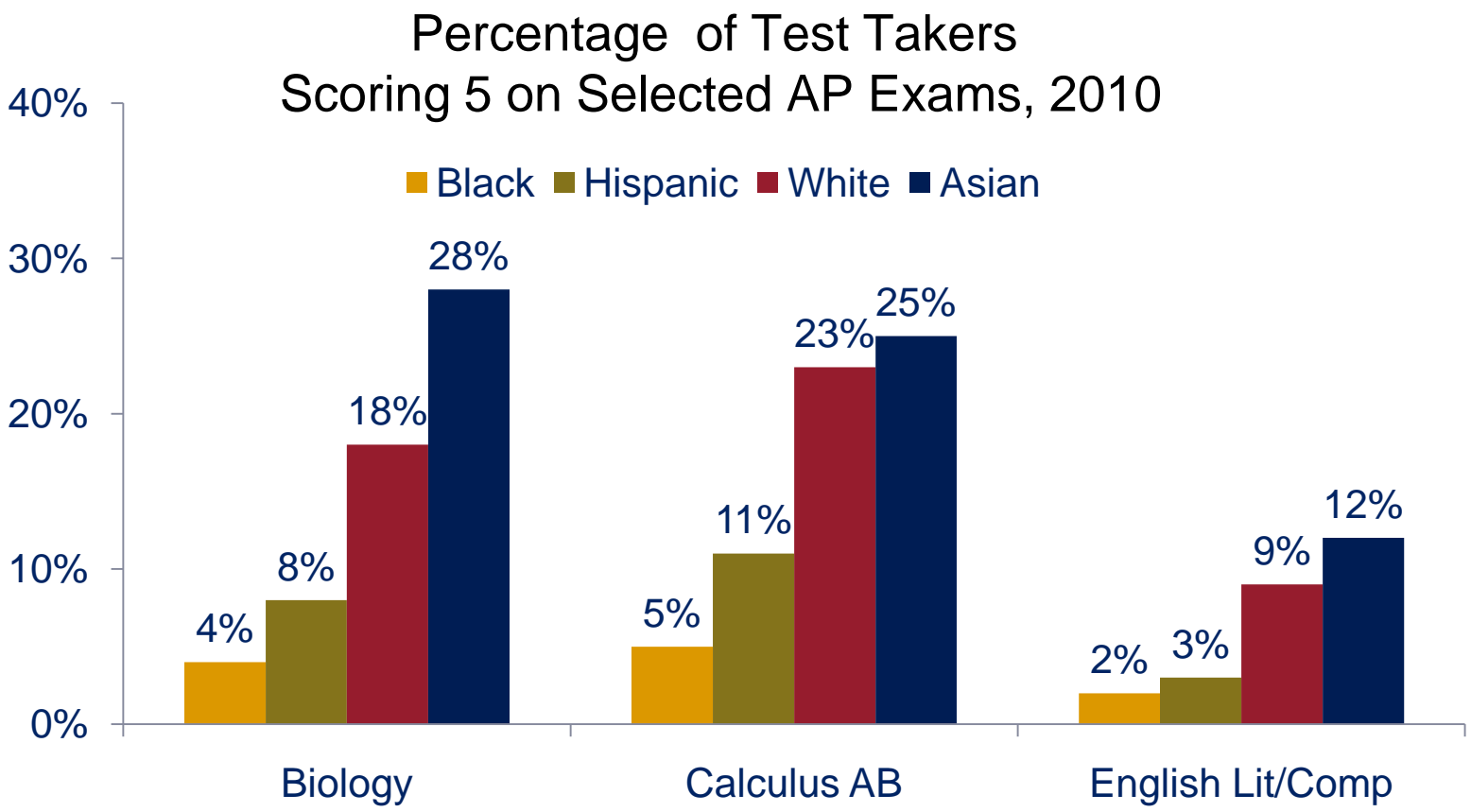
## Challenge: Small Shares of Blacks and Hispanics Complete a Rigorous High School Curriculum



Note: A Rigorous Curriculum is defined as at least 4 credits of English; at least 4 credits in math (including at least pre-calculus); biology, chemistry, and physics; and at least 3 foreign language credits.  
Source: Institute of Education Sciences (2011). *America's High School Graduates*



# Challenge: Small Shares of Blacks and Hispanics Earn 5's on AP Examinations



Source: College Entrance Examination Board, Advanced Placement Exam Summary Reports, 2010



# Resources Selective Research Universities May Use to Increase College Access for Students From Underrepresented Groups

## Financial

- “No loan” and other financial aid policies

## Human

- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Faculty and staff

## Organizational

- Institutional units and positions
- College outreach programs

## Catalytic

- Signal the importance of these efforts
- Offer examples to other institutions

(Perna, Harkavy, & Bowman, forthcoming, *Metropolitan Universities*)